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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058630
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM PARIS DATED MARCH 16, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO GENEVA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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PASS DEPT OF LABOR FOR ILAB

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR, ILO
SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S COMMENTS

1. FOLLOWING MARCH 16 MEETING, ILO-FRANCE REPRESENTATIVE LARRUE INTRODUCED LABATT TO ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD. BLANCHARD, WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED IN OFFICE, EXPLAINED HE WAS IN PARIS BRIEFLY ON LEAVE. HE THEN TOOK SOME TIME TO GIVE HIS UNSOLICITED VIEWS ON CURRENT ILO SITUATION, WHICH HE CLEARLY INTENDED TO BE REPORTED.

2. BLANCHARD SAID HE HAD SCHEDULED EARLY MAY VISIT TO US. AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED HIM TO CALL ON HIM WHILE THERE, PREFERABLY BEFORE
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING. BLANCHARD HAS AGREED AND HAS ASKED WASHINGTON ILO REP TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS DURING PERIOD APPARENTLY MAY 1 THROUGH 4. BLANCHARD SAID HE ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF LABOR MARSHALL, AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. SAID HE WOULD OF COURSE LIKE TO PAY HIS RESPECTS TO PRESIDENT.

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3. BLANCHARD THEN COMMENTED THAT HE FELT THAT RECENT GENEVE GOVRNING BODY MEETING HAD GONE VERY WELL INDEED ON ALL POINTS; AND THAT IRVING BROWN HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS RETURNING TO US BECAUSE OF HIGH LEVEL WASHINGTON MEETING ON ILO THIS WEEK. ADDED THAT JUNE MEETING WOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND THAT, WITH REFERENCE TO US DECISION, WE WERE GETTING CLOSE TO THE POINT OF FINAL DECISION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION THAT SOME PEOPLE HAD BEEN SURPRISED AT THE EXTENT TO WHICH CONSTRUCTIVE POSITIONS HAD CARRIED DAY AT GENEVA, BLANCHARD COMMENTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN SURPRISED ABOUT THE ISRAELI ISSUE'S OUTCOME; BUT HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED OF THE STRENGTH OF THE VOTES ON ARTICLE 17; REORGANIZATION; AND BUDGET ISSUES. HE ATTRIBUTED OUTCOME OF SUBSTANTIVE VOTES TO:

- DEGREE TO WHICH WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS HAD STUCK TOGETHER;

- EXTENT TO WHICH US ABLE TO WIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POLICIES;

- SUBSIDENCE OF MILITANCY WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77, MENTIONING IN PARTICULAR CHANGES OF POLICY BY MEXICO AND SRI LANKA; AND A MORE CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS US BY CUBA.

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5. BLANCHARD CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS BY STATING THAT BECAUSE OF INCIDENT INVOLVING TIPSY SOMALI REPRESENTATIVE LAST MONTH, THERE WAS DANGER THAT MAURICE (PHONETIC) MIGHT NOT BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UPCOMING ILO CONFERENCE. SAID SOMALI, IRRITATED BY COMMENT FROM MAURICE, LOBBYING FOR PAN-AFRICAN VOTE AGAINST HIS CANDIDACY.

6. AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO GENEVA ARRIVED FOR CLEARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH BLANCHARD.
GAMMON UNQUOTE VANCE

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